(b) what was the amount of total expenditure incurred on these conferences;

(c) what was the number of international conferences held in other countries attended by India alongwith the number of delegates during 1987 and 1988; and

(d) what is the total expenditure spent on attending these conferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Canteens in Delhi

14. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the numbe of railway canteens being run at various places in Delhi/New Delhi, alongwith the names of the places;

(b) what is the number of complaints received during the last two years, canteen-wise;

(c) for what period a manager/incharge is normally posted at railway canteens;

(d) what are the details of canteens where managers/incharges have overstayed; and

(e) what steps are being taken to transfer them to other places and also to improve the services at various railway canteens in Delhi/New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Railways run three Refreshment rooms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazarat Nizamuddin Railway stations, and six units in the Parliament House Complex in Delhi area.

(b) Number of complaints receive in the last two years 1987 and 1988 is as under: -

Delhi	5
New Delhi	44
Hazarat Nizamuddin	31
Parliament House Complex	6

(c) No specific period has been prescribed.

'. (d) Does not arise

(e) No transfar is proposed at present. Steps taken to further improve catering services at various refreshment rooms including those in Delhi and New Delhi include inspections by officers and supervisors, use of modern kitchen equipments, use of standard quality raw-material, training to staff etc.

Inadequate road facilities

15. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance of both the National and State Highways in the country has been very poor which has led to substantial -increase in vehicle user cost; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Constitutionally, the Government of India are primarily responsbile for roads declared as National Highways. State Highways are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Apart from inadequate maintenance, deficiencies in road width and crust thickness in relation to traffic demand also contribute to increase in vehicle user costs. Efforts are being made to provide as much funds as possible for maintenance and development of National Highways keeping in

view the availability of resources and *inter se* priorities.

Establishing Relations with Israel

16. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the desirability to establish friendly relations with Israel, in the context of the current sea change in world affairs and pursuade it to accede to PLO's declaration of a Palestine state, if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Hungary is establishing diplomatic relations with South Korea, a former arch rival of the East Block, whether Government propose to take similar initiative with Israel in the context of present world situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI) : (a) India has a consistent and principled policy on the Palestinian issue. Israel's response to the constructive moves of the PLO to resolve the Palestinian Question has been far frorr positive. Government would undertake any appropriate initiative to further the Middle East Peace process. For the present, it sees no need to review its present stand on relations with Israel.

(b) Hungary and South Korea have established diplomatic relations. For the reasons mentioned above, Government are not considering any move to upgrade relations with Israel?

Construction of Rail Line From Renugunta to Karudwadi

17. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to construct rail line from Renugunta' to Kurudwadi *via* Nanded is under Government's consideration;

(b) whether any estimate of the cost has been made ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Air Traffic System

18. **DR.** RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to stater

(a) whether the National Airport Authority of India has drawn up any programme for modernisation of the air traffic service system for the entire Indian air space in a phased manner; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Upgradation of the service provided to aircraft operating along the es^ tablished *ATS routes from advisory service to Air Traffic Control Service and total radar coverage of the major ATS routes to improve safety of aircraft operations are the major operations being planned by National Airports Authority. The National Airports Authority has also plans for establishment of ©VOR/DME to define the ATS routes and to assist the aircraft in navigating safely.

(ATS:-Air Traffic Service.)

(@ VOR:-Very High Frequency Omni I Range.)

(DME:— Distance Measuring Equipment.)